

Customer No. :31561
Application No: 10/604,763
Docket NO.:11286-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claims 1-16 as being allowed and claims 18-20 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 19 and cancelled claim 18 without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-17, 19-20 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 18 which the Examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claim in a continuing application. Support for the claimed amendments can be found in the specification. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

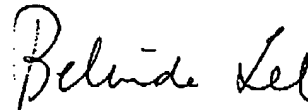
In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been traversed, accommodated and/or rendered moot, and that the now pending claims 1-17, 19-20 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion

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of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date : *March 22, 2005*



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